

FEBRUARY 9, 2024 | VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 4

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Truth or Lies: Mr. Lover Lover.

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GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



letter to the **EDITOR**

"CONTINUING ON THE **COMMONS**'

Parks on "Sharing the Commons," I thought an update on the Ann Arbor Community Commons would be appropriate.

Several years ago I wrote a Groundcover report on the "Campaign for the Commons," its victory at the polls in 2018 and a City Task Force making recommendations to advance the com- "central park" only — ignoring both the mons — which the City Council "civic center" and the "commons" overaccepted. In December 2019 they encouraged acceleration of development; funding came out of the parking revenue, still being collected since 2018, when the parking lot was repurposed from "Public Land-Parking" to "it" is what we can get together, begin-"Public Land-Park."

Since then, the Mayor has continued to oppose the commons, and seems to have aligned the current City Council and administration to ignore, or very slow-walk, the directions mandated by

process. A "Council of the Commons" was set up to advise the City on what to do, and they refused actually to look Following last issue's article by Ken at plans and talk about ideas and help the commons development; instead, they said the City should hire professional consultants to advise us on what to do, and that the private funds raised for physical development should instead be used to pay the professional consultants. This "out-sourcing of creativity" also limited attention to the all as the cooperative mode of and providing terraces over the Library development.

> invited to use it, and to be responsible for it and to respect one another." The ning with the Public Land, for which we People voted and won, and other things people can donate or lend or buy. "Commonly pooled resources self-managed by the users" is a definition of the commons. Needs include a

shade and tables and chairs and signs, wi-fi, toilets and water ... with some of this the City could easily have helped, and still could. On the Library Lane surface lot, the first need is to get the cars off, so the people can easily begin to use the space.

GROUNDCOVER

The Civic Center Building element of ativity, and depending on the building plans of other neighbors and further designing inspiration for connecting the Liberty Plaza with the Library Lane Lane Ramps and building the Civic The commons means "everyone is Center Building over Library Lane.

The Civic Center is imagined in many ways, where you can go to see what's happening and new, and it is a place of last resort when you have a problem that can't be solved anywhere else ... including a multi-use mix of a local food conscious cafe, special events performance space, peace place, housing and service counseling, the People's vote and the democratic stage and sound system, lights and art galleries, local history and climate

classes. Lots of beautiful four-season ideas have been suggested, many partnering with the library and other possible developments including a warming place and continuing the gardens.

FEBRUARY 9.2024

If you want to put on a program on the commons, or are interested in the commons development is a longer- helping, please contact the Ann Arbor range plan, waiting for more local cre- Community Commons Initiating Committee: www.AnnArborCommunityCommons.org

> — Alan Haber, Commons Initiating Committee



GROUNDCOVER NEWS

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower lowincome persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed.

Vendors purchase each copy of our regular editions of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale.

Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. Our paper is a proud member of the International Network of Street Papers.

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ASK YOUR VENDOR

Finish the sentence: Roses are red, violets are blue ...

Everything feels better when I'm with you.

— Maurice Leggert, #618

What about the white one? — Roberto Isla Caballero, #347

If you don't think its true, go to the zoo!

—Wayne Sparks, #615

I like a lot of money, how about you?

— Joe Woods, #103

I buy and read Groundcover, and you should too!

— Cindy Gere, #279

When it rains, I think of you drip, drip, drip!

— Shelley DeNeve, #22

I don't know ... I love you. — Mike Jones, #113

Honey is sweet, and so are you! — Ken Parks. #490



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Health minute

ON MY CORNER

Most people lead busy schedules: work, family and just organizing life as a whole. The most important thing we must do is prioritize our health — mind, body and spirit. In this guide I will start with the body, and teach you the methods of living a long time, as well as having mental clarity and focus while doing it.

I have to admit, I am someone who gets bored with the same old routine of going to the gym. So I have to mix up my fitness. I bike, jog, lift weights, go to the yoga studio and hit the erg (rowing machine). If you're trying to lose weight, losing the weight can add extra stress. Just the thought of doing something extra and extenuating adds pressure.

The first thing you need to know is eating the right foods is the first step to a healthy body and fitness



ASHLEY POWELL Groundcover vendor No. 595

routine. When you eat the right foods you not only feel better but you perform better whether that be in sports or on the job. If you're eating bad food and working out, it defeats the purpose.

Secondly, getting up at 5 a.m might seem like a challenge but it's the best time to work out. Working out at this time can fit into anyone's busy schedule.

Third, eliminate sugar completely. Open your fridge and cabinets ... throw out any fattening food and replace it with all whole food. Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Drinking water sends stress packing and removes toxins from your system. Water is also key in moving key nutrients as well as oxygen production. Sports drinks and other teas on the market contain added sugar. Anything over 13 grams of sugar is bad.

Bread, once digested, becomes sugar. If you eat rice it should be brown rice. Many pastas and other grains become sugar. Let's say, you like pancakes. Gluten free or spelt pancakes taste just as good and are a healthy alternative. Some brands even offer a proteinpacked box.

Ruminating on the Lions — support your home team!

Going into the NFC playoffs, like many Lions fans, these were my thoughts:

"I hope the Detroit Lions do good like Michigan did. Michigan won the national championship. The Lions play this week on Sunday. I hope they win. If they win against Tampa Bay, I think they'll go to the Superbowl. I guess I'm a Lions fan.

I like them because they're my home team. I'm from Detroit, and I was born and raised in Michigan. So I like the Red Wings and the Tigers and the Pistons. The Pistons fell out right now, but maybe they'll recover one day. It was good back in the day when they were called The Bad Boys, a long time ago. No one remembers that, but you can look it up, it's true.

Anyway, the Lions haven't won a championship since 1957. I think that if we do win, it would be a really amazing thing, everybody would be really surprised and happy.

I've never seen them in person, only on TV. I think it would cost a lot to see the game live. I actually like it better on TV because I can pause it, I can go to the bathroom, cook something, and I don't have to pay a lot of money for refreshments or anything like that. When you're at the game you gotta pay for parking



PONY BUSH Groundcover vendor No. 305

and all that — it just costs more.

I don't know the names of many of the players right now, but my favorite is Jared Goff, the quarterback. He's doing good so far. He's the best quarterback that they've had in a long time for the Lions. He's doing better than Matthew Stafford, even though Matthew Stafford got paid more. Stafford was the highest paid quarterback as of 2017.

I have friends who don't like the that before.

myself. They were the worst team in the NFL! I couldn't stand them. I had no faith in them. I started to like them more now because they're winning. I'm not saying that you need to like a team just because it's your home team, but you need to support them. I supported the Lions even if they weren't my favorite because I'm from Detroit.

Lions, and I used to not like them

Let's hope that they keep winning so that I can like the team that I support!"

After the game reflections: I feel that they could've done better. They were doing good at the beginning but the second half they just fell off. I don't know if they got tired or what it was. But I feel like they came a long way. Even though we lost, we made it almost to the Super Bowl, and I'd never seen them do



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Housing the unhoused in Washtenaw County

HOMELESSNESS

My name is Michael Jones. I am a writer, photographer and vendor for Groundcover News in Ann Arbor. Groundcover News was founded in April 2010, as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed. Street newspapers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless and combat the increase in poverty.

Before I go any further, I would like to give a hardy thank you to the many who work tirelessly day and night to serve the unhoused and those in need: Peggy, Sheri, Lindsay, Ben and Brian from the Mercy, Peace, Hospitality and Purple Houses, respectively: I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. And we can't forget the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County for all you guys do for the community. I say thank you to board members, staff and those who stand on the frontlines in this war on homelessness and poverty.

Washtenaw County is facing a homelessness problem. During sub-zero temperatures in the middle of January, the Ypsilanti police threatened to evict unhoused people from their tent encampment along Michigan Avenue, year; over half are children. leaving the homeless with nowhere to go. Facing imminent eviction, the people staying there chose to move on, and the county government helped with some hotel nights for them. You can read more about that in the January 26, 2024 edition.

The Delonis Center, the Washtenaw County shelter, is over-capacity especially during the winter months.



MIKE JONES Groundcover vendor No. 113

I was born and raised in Ann Arbor and like most people who grew up here, had to relocate to Ypsilanti due to the unaffordability of Ann Arbor.

I was once homeless here in Washtenaw County. I was also a cab driver for over ten years and homeless or unhoused at the same time.

The number of unhoused people in the United States dropped from 637,000 in 2010 to about 554,000 in 2017. But homelessness is spiking upward now, some degree the pandemic; and as a opportunities for students to be SPARK. result, tens of thousands more people in the U.S. were unhoused in 2023 compared with 2022.

On average 2,000-3,000 people in Washtenaw County are homeless each

I would like to share a small portion of my vision for a Washtenaw County Shelter for unhoused individuals and

Located in Ypsi on Michigan Avenue between Hamilton and Adams Street is a beautiful building and structure; once upon a time it was part of the Eastern Michigan University Business School. I don't know who owns that building ing, but I would like to use this structure This would be rewarding not only for as an example of what type of space is the unhoused and those in need, but needed to house the unhoused in a life changing and consciousness **Washtenaw County**

Not only would this be a place to house those in need, but could also be a refuge of resources within the campus area. Resources such as: mental health/ drug treatment clinics, job training and resource center, and programs to help those re-entering society from incarceration and young adults entering society from foster care.

This facility will be community friendly and operated by professionals and volunteers who are passionate about helping and serving individuals and families in need. We who live in Washtenaw County are fortunate to have three fine educational institutions, the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and sure these institutions wouldn't mind

and what plans they have for this build- involved in active work experience. upgrade for interns and volunteers, who are at such an impressionable age in their development as young adults.

Institutions, organizations and people from all ages from various backgrounds would gather, and work for a great cause with the aim to enlighten and redeem.

I would encourage Washtenaw County citizens to see if the County could purchase that site I mentioned, or consult a developer, and build a campus structure of this magnitude or greater to be able serve at the capacity

Editor's note: Michigan Innovation Headquarters has purchased the old EMU Business School. It will be rennovated to be a "life science and technol-Washtenaw Community College. I'm ogy hub in downtown Ypsilanti, complete with medical offices, multiple lending their expertise to help the *dining options, and state-of-the-art wet* due to the high cost of living and to homeless and provide internship lab spaces," according to Ann Arbor



Former site of Eastern Michigan University's College of Business, located at 300 W. Michigan Ave in Ypsilanti.

Giveaways do no good

Editor's note: This is an opinion

Before, two or three years ago, there weren't as many homeless people in Ann Arbor. Today, there's too many people staying outside. I heard that all these people are coming from Detroit. I have been here for nine years; I came with nothing. Now all these people want free things. This county has thousands of people out there waiting for housing.

My caseworker tries to help me anytime, but if I don't need help I tell her, "for now I'm OK."

But sometimes I don't know what's happening to me. Sometimes I think I might be losing my mind. All the time, I see people asking for a year [total of both social security



something, asking, asking, trying to work, real work.

Now, in 2024, the social security administration pays a trillion dollars people are not outside in the cold.

I remember in Cuba, in the 70s, Castro said: either you work, or you the Statue of Liberty because it's lookgo to jail. In America you don't have ing bad. They need to change the laws like that. Everything is free. Constitution. People don't want to go to work, they want to stay in the street.

The American Constitution needs to change many things. Why do people still come to America to become drug dealers, gang members, and pimps?

Sometimes people come to America

retirement and disability income]. I to work. That's okay. But too many don't understand why they pay this people come here and they don't have much money a year. This is the ques- a green card, or social security, or anytion: why is the United States doing so thing. Lots of bosses accept people many things for these crazy people? and pay them cash money under the They need to have more mental health—table. Immigration and police need to care and hospitals so that these change. The White House and the Capitol are not doing anything.

What needs to be done is: take out

In 2016, Barack Obama went to Cuba and made a law that opened up the border. He did not make sure that people coming from Cuba wouldn't be deported though.

I want to say thank you to America. I am a Cuban refugee. Finito.

An old white man considers Black History Month

JIM HUGHES Groundcover contributor

Black History Month is an opportunity to discover more of the actual history of how people of color have been treated in the United States. The stories of enslaved people, indigenous Americans, indentured ser- cies that shut many Americans out of vants and immigrants are only recently getting told widely.

the difference is that the facts are now being told in detail more and more by those descended from people of color. My own view is that more and more people have researched original documents, family stories and oral history so that 21st century Americans can (if we choose to) disesting and enlightening to those of us cover the whole story of our nation's

For many years, school history books focused on the aspirational nature of the American experience as expressed in the founding documents. This gave an overview without the detail needed to listen and learn about the lived experience of people on the margins of society. Thankfully, closer look at how the United States carried out the ideals expressed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights reveals a series of hopes and dreams — both achieved and deferred. Perspective and context explains the arc of history for people in this country.

The sad stories and hard lives of

marginalized folks have been obscured, causing widespread misunderstanding. What's especially been missing from the common understanding of history has been any serious review of the myriad intentional policies, laws, cultural discrimination and economic polifull participation in the benefits of society, politically and economically. The facts have always been there; The resulting ignorance of most Americans has infected public policy for years. As a result, we have experienced huge disparities in opportunity, wealth, home ownership, health outcomes, longevity and social capital across generations.

The unfettered truth can be interseeking to understand the deep divisions in our culture and society. Facing the pain and suffering of those who were once enslaved can be a liberating exercise. One important action we can take is to educate ourselves about history, to take a deeper look at the stories, culture and systems of people on the margins in America. This can be done by searchthis practice is changing from the ing out and reading books and artiplatitudes I learned in high school. A cles by Black authors and journalists, by visiting historic places and museums chronicling the Black experithe Declaration of Independence, ence in America, and by taking time to listen to those voices speaking out today in journalism, literature and the arts.

Facts matter. Ignoring the facts and details about our history has caused repeated failure to address the

disparities endemic to the American political and economic system. Despite these serious difficulties,

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

I'm hopeful that the "Beloved Community" that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned can be realized. It will take constant effort. My own readings and explorations in recent vears have caused me to believe that we white Americans should take the time to learn about and confront the sad realities of systematic, deliberate efforts to divide people since Europeans first arrived to colonize this land over 400 years ago. Sugarcoating this history has only served to maintain division, bigotry, hatred and white supremacy. I cannot change that history; however, I can learn about it and I can work to undo the disparities it has caused up to the present day in February, 2024.

Honest reckoning with our past can lead to reconciliation, healing, justice and the dream Dr. King had for this

Jim Hughes is a Christian, influenced by the social gospel, the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Father John Kavanaugh and Dan Berrigan. Active in the Peace movement at St. Louis University, Hughes achieved conscientious objector status in 1970. He was drafted and worked with farmworkers and extended health care for his alternative service. Mr. Hughes has lived, worked and volunteered in Michigan nonprofits, churches, local and state government for many years, until retiring in 2015.

DON'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE? We can work with a variety of IDs to get you your **TOOLS TO HELP**

Preschool and Kindergarten Resource Fair

February 17 | 12-2pm YDL-Whittaker

Chat with representatives of local schools and service organi zations, enjoy school readiness hands-on activities, and take home a free book and tote bag.



"Long and winding road toward Dr. King's dream of ending hunger and poverty in America continues" by Will Shakespeare, January 2021

"The Black family in transition" by Will Shakespeare, February 2021

"Crossroads in STEM diversity, equity and inclusion: empowering underrepresented racial minorities" by Will Shakespeare, April 2021

"Juneteenth — a celebration of freedom" by Jaz Brennan, June 2021

"Don't take away my humanity! Remembering Anne Frank and George Floyd" by Will Shakespeare, July 2021

"Community town hall: Poverty, racism and trauma" by Ben Girodias, November 2021

"The tragedy of Aura Rosser: Police brutality, domestic violence and community policing reform" by Will Shakespeare, November 2021

"Black health and wellness before and after **COVID-19"** by Will Shakespeare, February 15, 2022

"Celebrating Black leadership in health equity and race disparities research" by Will Shakespeare, March 1, 2022

"The story of Ida B. Wells: Anti-lynching crusader, women's rights activitst" by Will Shapespeare, August 1, 2022

"Emmett Till's story — the horrific lynching of a 14-year-old boy in Mississippi" by Will Shakespeare, August 15, 2022

"Gentrification of Ann Arbor, my hometown, through the eyes of Shanty Wobagege" by Mike Jones, November 1, 2022



Support Krystal Clark

LARA DENDEL **Groundcover contributor**

Krystal Clark is incarcerated at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Ypsilanti. From the website freekrystal.com, "Krystal Clark is a 39-year-old mother of four, devoted friend and caring community member."

She has been incarcerated for the last 13 years, and is suffering severe health problems due to an allergy to mold which is present in the prison. Her health issues are so serious that she is slowly being killed by the conditions in the prison. Due to her speaking out about this injustice, she is being harassed by Michigan Department of Corrections and mocked by employees and other inmates. In addition, the prison has been messing with her mail.

She has been seen by doctors within MDOC, but the diagnoses that the doctors give her do not make it into her medical file, and if a doctor says her issues are due to the mold, she never sees that doctor again. At the moment, she is in need of hearing aids, which she was told she would receive, but they are now delaying her getting them by claiming they need to

run other tests first. Krystal is dealing with a large amount of pain every day, with no relief.

In 2019 Krystal was among a group of women to file a two-count civil rights action against the MDOC, alleging the prison is full of dangerous conditions (leaky roofs, haphazard retrofitting, inoperable windows and more) which have made it a breeding ground for fungi and molds. Doctors within MDOC will not include mold as a cause of their health issues in their files, but when the women have been lucky enough to see an outside doctor, mold is clearly listed as the cause of their health ailments. This case was dismissed by the court because the judge said that there's no established rights of prisoners to be free from mold. This means that even if a doctor finds that mold is the cause of their health ailments, the prison is not obligated to take any action. Since it is clear that the prison is not going to take action to fix the mold problem, this means that Krystal's health will only continue to worsen. She was not given a death sentence, but serving the remainder of her sentence in these

conditions could kill her. We're calling for the compassionate release of Krystal Clark so she can

access the life-saving medical care she needs and return to her family to heal. Please contact Governor Whitmer and tell her that Krystal is being killed in

RACIAL JUSTICE

prison, which no one deserves. In Krystal's own words: "Everyone incarcerated has somebody who cares about them. The Governor says all Michiganders matter. I can't tell when she knows my situation and others.

We're still here sick and suffering and others are dying and she has yet to acknowledge this, let alone do anything about it. The Governor says we all matter, now we're asking her to prove it. Myself and others have families out there who love and care about them who shouldn't have to suffer or lose their lives in here. We know there is a lot going on in the world but, Michigan, we need help. We need y'all to support our prisoner advocates who are fighting for our lives and our

Krystal has petitioned the Parole Board for a Pardon or Commutation of Sentence due to her health issues. Once it reviews her petition, the board will make a recommendation to the Governor. Please write to the Parole Board and the Governor, urging them to release Krystal Clark (#435064) so that she does not die in prison.



Krystal Clark

Additionally, please call the Director, Deputy Director and Healthcare Services Administrator of MDOC and demand that Krystal be given access to medical treatment for her mold allergy, and that MDOC must address the mold problem and fix the building conditions that are allowing its growth.

Learn more about Krystal's situation at freekrystal.com and listen to her on Prison Radio (prisonradio.org)

Originally published in Fight to Win January 2024.

The Ride

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Pull Over Prevention grows with community support

Groundcover contributor

The Pull Over Prevention program is a car repair clinic that started in southeast Michigan as a result of the murder of George Floyd and others during encounters with police officers. It began in August 2020, led by Natasha Abner of the Democratic Socialists of America and the Mutual Aid Network of Ypsilanti and other current volunteers.

According to the Ypsilanti Mutual Aid Network, "Police and immigration officers use minor automotive issues as reasons to stop, search, fine and deport people. POP volunteers provide repair and advice for these issues, share repair skills and promote access to local resources."

Pull Over Prevention is a great endeavor that a lot of community organizations have got on board with in order to reduce unnecessary confrontations with law enforcement and bridge the gap for those experiencing financial difficulties, who are most likely unable to afford needed minor car repairs.

Community organizations and the services and resources they offer include:

- Bløm Meadworks donated part of their proceeds for the entire month of January 2024. They also sponsored a benefit fundraiser on January 21. I want to thank all who attended and supported this event.
- Wee Wah Productions organized a big fundraiser in Ypsilanti, Michigan that raised over \$1,000

- Masjid Ibrahim, a mosque in Ypsilanti, has hosted five to six POP events
- Pet Pals Mutual Aid provides free
- Home of New Vision gives away harm reduction supplies like Narcan and they provide support for recovery
- low cost COVID and flu vaccines.
- Peace House Ypsilanti is a house of hospitality that provides support for people experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurity. Also on hand are harm reduction supplies and hand warmers, foot warmers and tents for
- summer.
- Washtenaw County Health Department provides free health supplies and information about local resources, and works with Packard Health to do free vaccines.
- Legal Services of South Central Michigan provides free legal assistance
- and information for dog training.

- annually
- FedUp Ministries provides a freefood truck and lots of food assistance around Washtenaw County.
- pet supplies. They do this because they realize that pets are family, too.
- Car Seats of Michigan offers free car seat safety inspections and can sometimes provide free car seats.
- from substance use disorders.
- Packard Health dispenses free and
- people living outside.
- Ypsilanti Bike Co-op helps with free bike repairs in the spring and
- Good Wolff provides free support
- Washtenaw Camp Outreach provides free street survival resources and camping supplies.
- Mutual Aid Network of Ypsilanti is



POP volunteers and participating organizations.

which offers a variety of items such as household goods and clothing.

- Michigan General Defense Committee, inspired by and with help from southeast Michigan POP, started another Pull Over Prevention that happens the first Sunday of the month in Lansing.
- Huron Valley Democratic Socialists of America helps sponsor and support the POP events.

vention Program offers a booklet that lists some of your rights. I spoke briefly with Officer Bondy of the Ann Arbor Police Department and she told me that people can also be kinder to law enforcement agents. They have a very difficult job to do and they are also concerned for their safety, too.

I hope to see more programs implemented by Prosecutor Eli Savit about

a nonprofit that fiscally sponsors the safety when dealing with people with events and also furnishes a free store mental illness. I hope that we all can be treated with dignity, respect and fairness.

> If you're a professional, hobbyist, curious or retired mechanic, you can help make POP Clinics and help requests possible. If you might know a mechanic, please let them know about

POP needs interpreters, too! Spanish and Arabic speakers often attend Pull Over Prevention. If you know someone I want to add that The Pull Over Pre- who speaks a language other than English, either natively or fluently, please send them our way.

> The next Pull Over Prevention is Saturday, February 10, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Ypsilanti (120 N Huron St.). It occurs every second Saturday at rotating locations.

Facebook: @PullOverPrevention Email: pop@ypsimutualaid.org

Instagram: @ypsi_pop

"The Color Purple" movie is awesome

I really enjoyed the new "The Color Purple" movie written by Alice Walker.

I really think the new "The Color Purple" movie is awesome. There's also "The Color Purple" movie from back in the 80s, too. I like both versions. I love both versions. The new one is very colorful and musical. The new "The Color Purple" movie is also very detailed and very funny. The new "The Color Purple" movie has very sparkling, colorful and shiny clothing that the actors wear. I love all the pretty clothes they wore.

I loved the music, too. I like the part where Celie tells Harpo to beat Sofia and Sofia confronts her about it. I thought it was so funny when she



tells her she's "A damn liar." And then they start singing and dancing. I enjoyed the music because it was funny, too.

There is a song called "Hell no!" said, "You told Harpo to beat me!" The part where Celie and Shug Avery and she responds "No!" and Sofia are singing and dancing is a song

called "Push Da Button." I liked the part where they go to church and I love gospel singing.

Another part I love is when Celie made all the colorful pants, and they were unique and different and Mister bought the one that no one was likely to buy. Another great part was when Celie reunited with her sister, kids and family. That was a very touching and happy-tears part that I really loved. I loved Shug Avery and Celie's friendship; Shug really brought happiness and joy to Celie.

"The Color Purple" is a movie about friendship and love and family and Black culture and I will always love both versions of the story and movie. I recommend this movie for anyone



power of the gods at your command.

unexpected consequences. The Bulle-

tin of Atomic Scientists just updated

the doomsday clock to 90 seconds

unconditional love because it is

wedded to the belief in its own suprem-

acy, an individualism attempting to

prove its permanence. Brothers and

sisters, we cannot think our way into

the complete experience of reality

because the conceptual mind is a

small player in the vastness of reality.

scious mind are full of habitual pat-

terns that influence decisions and

actions. Even our intestinal microbi-

ome can be addicted to sugar and

listen to the deeper wisdom of the

body and detach from immediate

but how you feel an hour or two later

is the real test of your diet. Theory and

practice need constant upgrading on

the path to the truth that sets us free.

Experience tells you the truth of your

life. If you have some daily practice of

mind training, even a few minutes can

give you glimpses of the freedom you

hoped for. Patience and perseverance

When the financial commons is seen

The rational mind cannot fathom

from midnight.

gratification.

are key.

So we have nuclear power with all its



KEN PARKS Groundcover vendor No. 490

"Sharing the Commons" in the January 12, 2024 edition of Groundcover News focused on unconditional love as the bedrock of all the commons we share. We are born into the life of this world with a Mother's love that gives many of us an experience of unconditional love.

From unconditional love to "money" is a big jump. The truth of our lives is obscured by the barrage of brilliant distractions that the digital world uses to commodify everything with its algorithms and data mastery. This full spectrum war to dominate our awareness is looking at artificial intelligence to help them in that mission.

Richard Werner, the German economist, cut through the mountain of deception that hides the impermanence of money. He demonstrated empirically in an experiment with the Bank of England, that loans create money from nothing more than the social commons whose potential can be used productively, or to create debt in nonproductive activities such as war and other forms of corruption.

My assumption is that natural intelligence is more profound and complete than artificial intelligence. Can artificial intelligence tell you what its assumptions are? I think AI designers are lost in the enlightenment ideology of rational thought and the belief that reality is a machine that the rational man can master. You can have the commons, unconditional love is more important than arithmetic, which of course has its place. Most of us play in money everyday

as an expression of the primordial

and it's easy to get lost in what is a real priority and what you want. A natural breath will help you focus on your priorities.

Loans, grants and donations are three significant manifestations of money play. When you purchase Groundcover, you may give an additional donation when you sense that the person has needs greater than \$2.

Some years ago, I was invited to a Kwanzaa celebration at a national guard post in Hamtramck (see "A ing to the United States. I have a stepproud American revolutionary" or son on this route now. His wife is whatever in Groundcover News June 30, 2023). The focus was on cooperative (and community) economics, so Daniela and Santiago Alberto need defined as "a commitment to the practuo tickets each which may total tice of shared social wealth and the \$4,000. "What the market will bear," work necessary to achieve it." This is one of the axioms of the "free market," the practice of the financial commons.

I believe the financial commons can be understood in a way that leads us to share and promote creative living as an expression of living democracy. I hope you remember Pastors For Peace and Veterans For Peace, two important organizations in the struggle for Paulo, Brazil. I believe that we can pay peace in the world. When we live in the shared commons there will be peace as described by Toni Morrison: "The peace I am thinking of is not just the absence of violence but the play of an open mind when it encounters an equally open mind."

activism led to a core family in Cuba. The extended family has brought a young mother and son to center stage. We meditate together with our shared four year old son, Santiago Alberto, who enjoys our practice of breathing together. I held Daniela, the mother, in Your therapy may have taught you my hands shortly after her birth on that the subconscious and uncon- August 21, 2000, at a ceremony in the cathedral. I committed to be padrino, i.e., protector, mentor and spiritual friend. A few years ago she expressed the desire to live with me to the end of alcohol. When cravings become pow- my life. We have an application with erful, we need to interrogate them, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services which is in long delay and not likely to be approved if it is processed due to their terms and con- which is the seamless nature of reality Of course we want to feel good so the ditions. I have been sending most of in its completely natural state. It struggle is complex. Taste is important my income to Cuba where Daniela cannot be defined but can be experiadministers it to several households. In past years we built two houses.

If you are familiar with the geopolitics of U.S. policy, you know about the blockade with its sanctions and ongoing financial crisis in Cuba. Many are leaving to find jobs in another country. The Cuban diaspora is global and our core family now has an invitation to live in Brazil with extended family. The situation looks very positive with low

rent and a job for Daniela. I won't need to send so much to Cuba and she can help with the family still there. I am confident, largely because of our shared meditation practice, that we have a workable situation and I can write my autobiography "Born in 42, History, Mystery and You." The few pages of my first efforts are calling for completion.

FEBRUARY 9.2024

The challenge to organize travel is complex. Many countries do not allow Cubans to enter from Cuba but they can enter from other countries. Mexico and Brazil are the two I know about. There is a refugee route from Cuba to Nicaragua then Mexico for those headalready in Florida.

The route to Brazil is through Guyana, can make life very expensive. I am appealing to the financial commons as a visionary with the belief that we can organize ourselves to move forward with building a democratic commons that includes loans in particular.

I am asking for a \$4,800 community loan to help us get established in Sao it back and even contribute to a fund in the financial commons to be used for the common good. Of course grants and donations will be accepted but I am appealing for a loan because I feel we have some responsibility that our situation will promote a financial Many of you know that my peace flow that will "Return to the Source," which also the title of a great book featuring Amilcar Cabral from Guinea Bissou/Cape Verde Islands, which like Brazil was once a Portuguese colony.

Even if I were to die before a loan was repaid I am confident that Daniela would complete the agreement. The relations that we build now may come to fruition in an amazing future. Of all the possible world systems, may we be reborn in a pure land and enjoy the commons of unconditional love. In the words of the Lord's Prayer "On earth as it is in Heaven." May this earth become a pure land.

I have given up dualism for the all good expanse of primordial purity enced. Our ancestors point the way.

I hope annarborcommunitycommons.org picks up on this work. I believe Groundcover News has a role to play. I was involved as a supporter of the World Social Forum which was in Detroit in 2010, which talked about the commons we all share.

Let's look at another forum as we

see **COMMONS** next page **→**

Sudoku **** 4puz.com 3 5 1 3 5 8 2 9 8 3 9 8 4 5 2 6 3 6

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9

Groundcover Vendor Code or terminated.

While Groundcover is a non-profit, and paper vendors are self-employed contractors, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following is our **Vendor Code** of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

- Groundcover will be a voluntary purchase. I agree not to ask for more than the cover price or solicit donations by any other means.
- When selling Groundcover, I will always have the current biweekly issue of Groundcover available for customer purchase.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper or topics of homelessness and povselling past monthly issues.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers and refrain from wearing it or other Groundcover gear when engaged in other activities.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended

- I agree to treat all customers, staff, and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover under the influence of drugs or
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor in downtown areas. I will also abide by the Vendor Corner Policy.
- I understand that Groundcover strives to be a paper that covers erty while providing sources of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

If you would like to report a violation of the Vendor Code please email contact@groundcovernews. com or fill out the contact form on our website.

Something Fishy Peter A. Collins

ACROSS

- 1. Defeat soundly
- 6. Enthusiastic "I agree!" 10. "Famous" cookie-maker
- 14. Old Testament book
- 15. Nefarious Roman emperor
- 16. Archaeologist's find 17. Californie et Pennsylvanie
- 18. New Mexico resort 19. Thought
- 20. Igor in "Young Frankenstein"
- 23. Bird food
- 24. "___ & Stitch" (Disney film)
- 25. "___ pasa?"
- 28. Modern art? 29. Beeline
- 32. Adjusts, as a piano
- 33. Damp and cool 34. Goes along with
- Unscrambles a secret message 40. Pilfer
- Kind of eclipse
- 42. Pursuits of higher and higher academic degrees, slangily
- 46. "Sesame Street" airer
- 49. "The Racer's Edge"
- 50. Part of QED
- 51. Elementary piano exercise
- 53. Jazz piano giant
- 56. Brazilian soccer great 58. Not any

64. Deadly serpents

DOWN

- Andronicus" (Shakespearean
- Rachel Wood of
- Westworld' 61. "Now it makes sense"

65. There are four in Mississippi

1. Louise's friend in film

- Adriatic or Aegea 21. Short period 62. Mock
- 63. Drink garnish
 - The ___ Reader" (magazine) 27. Mouse-induced squeals
 - 30. Low-
 - 31. Smell 32. Head of France?

22. Here-there connection

2. Empty talk 3. Of some service

8. R-rated, maybe

Somewhat

Binary digit

9. Sodium-free request

1999 movie), with "The"

- Copper, for one
- Skipped Against
- 37. Uno + uno 7. Childhood disease 38. Install in office
 - 39. Walkman insert, once

34. European chain

35. Layer of paint

Ford

36. Directors Sofia and Francis

- 41. Kaplan offering
- 43. ___ room 11. 1960s-70s TV cop show (and
 - 44. Head cases? 45. Annoy

 - 46. Rigatoni and rotini
 - 47. Loose-fitting top
 - 48. Picks up
 - 52. Has a bawl?

 - 54. Email classification
 - Checks out
 - Candy with a dispenser 57. First family member?

COMMONS from last page

build on the ruins of the neoliberal of us will prepare by studying "The Fourth Alternative" by Alexander

Dugin, the notorious Russian intellectual activist who is banned from some social media platforms but edifice which is collapsing around us. lives in translation by Michael Mill-Dollars are no foundation for human- erman, which points at deeper parity. Maybe we will meet in Brazil for ticipation with the commons. There another World Social Forum. Some is a podcast. Explore your curiosity. May all beings benefit!

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here 423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149 Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



FEBRUARY 2024 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

Please visit the church website at: bethlehem-ucc.org for the most up-to-date calendar and event information.



Sunday Worship Time 10:00 am In-person and via Live Stream

Content warning: This article is intended for mature audiences.

Alonzo was singing "Mr. Lover Lover, I hope the girls don't discover that I'm a Playboy undercover, that's why I have to use the rubber."

Alonzo often hummed this song on his way to his next date. Upon his arrival, he would pop his trunk, and retrieve his condoms that were hidden under his spare tire.

Alonzo stood 6'2" tall, was buff with a six-pack, was well-groomed with his hair always smelling good. He dressed with a different swagger. Alonzo had three phones; "I am such a playboy," he thought. Yeah two phones were for the ladies and the other phone was for family and busiunder the spare tire. He used them every free moment, before and after work, always competing to get the

He would often find himself in competition with his bros. Yeah, such an arrogant attitude he just knew he would always win, being so handsome, smelling so good and being intelligent, too — he couldn't lose. This past week alone he went on a date with five different women. He and his bros always wanted to



He never thought that any of the girls would meet with each other or that he would ever get caught. He was in college working a job at Winnie's grocery store as a cashier and bag boy. It was the month of Februness. He stored them in his trunk ary, and all the bros were laughing and bragging they weren't getting no one anything for Valentine's Day. However, even though he laughed with the guys, Alonzo always bought the ladies a gift. He knew that was the way to keep the peace and get store, she heard this very loud lady what he wanted. He would secretly purchase every lady he was dating a better pick up the phone and call me Valentine's Day gift. He had a plan to back you user!" make it simple: Alonzo would purchase each one of them the same thing. He figured that way he would never forget what he got for each

Day. Finally, he scored a date with Keisha, one of his coworkers. Alonzo had been asking her out since he started working at the grocery store. Keisha would warn him, "You play too much. No you won't play with my heart. You know I'll hurt you if you play with my heart."

"Girl you know I wouldn't hurt you. I got you, come on, let me take you out and show you."

Keisha finally decided to go out with him after six months of him begging. He took her out to dinner and a movie. They both had a joyous time. Alonzo asked Keisha, "Could we go out again? And can I continue to call you?" Keisha agreed, thinking that he was serious.

The next day, Keisha was off work and decided to go to the mall to buy a new outfit for her next date with Alonzo. While she was in line at the shouting at the phone, "Alonzo you

She couldn't help but pay attention, because how many Alonzos are there? "That's a rare name," Keisha was thinking. She didn't even notice herself drifting over towards the lady

It was three days before Valentine's to hear more of the conversation.

She could not help herself, she asked the lady, "Your friend's named is Alonzo? That's quite a different

The lady looked at her and rolled her eyes and said, "What's it to you?" Keisha immediately humbled herself and said, "Oh, I'm not trying to Alonzo would laugh while saying, be in your business, I just was noticing what an odd name that was."

> The lady replied, "Yeah great name, but awful person. He must think women can't be without him."

That loud lady, Simone, was next in line. The cashier heard the whole conversation and asked, "What did he look like?'

Simone replied to the cashier, "Oh, he's good looking — tall, six pack and well groomed."

"Girl, you need to sneak up on him on his job! That's all you need to do," Keisha said.

The cashier, whose name was Kelly, replied, "Yeah do you know where he works? Don't let no man play you." Simone answered, "Yeah at a gro-

cery store on Main Street." Keisha and Simone both looked at Kelly and said, "Seems like we are all dating the same man!"

see MR. LOVER next page

Could reality as we know it be broken?

JAMES MANNING

Groundcover vendor No. 16

Throughout the course of my life the observable world has undergone many changes brought about by the discovery, creation and advancement of technology. When I was a kid I used to envy people with satellite TVs with seemingly endless channels and content to watch. We can certainly say that those days are long past and now all one needs to pay for is the internet and whatever specific streaming service.

These days I often find myself watching anything I find interesting on YouTube. There's always something to watch on YouTube. Calling the content I stumbled across interesting would be an understatement - content that at times has had me question the nature of reality in my observable world. There is some weird stuff out there with countless theories and beliefs. Even though the majority of claims and corresponding videos are elaborate hoaxes, the sheer scale of these paranormal submissions begs that there is some amount of truth. I wanted to point out some theories I've come across that I found very interesting as well as difficult to dismiss — and it's also just something downright fun to write about and speculate on.

Thanks to modern technology many in developed countries possess smartphones with the means of taking pictures and videos. This obvious fact has been very impactful unknown. I believe that paranormal

studies have exploded over the last decade and a half due to such access. I also believe it plays a part in milestone events such as governments around the world officially acknowledging the existence of UFOs and U.A.Ps (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena). These things just cannot be covered up as easily as they were decades ago. Of course it can always be argued that video evidence has been doctored with computer graphics and the like. However, that doesn't explain away the sheer number of submitted videos that are out there. Also not just anybody can utilize graphics alteration software,

technical skills. Another interesting theory that has come along over the years and made popular thanks to the Matrix franchise concerns simulated reality and parallel universes. Note I mentioned in documenting the realm of the "made popular." These ideas are content from the uploads of anyone complain that there is nothing to nothing new. These beliefs have carrying a smartphone.

which definitely requires specific

shown up in various philosophies throughout history. I struggle to creepy glitch videos online.

of parallel and or multiple universes and the result is endless content to and the accompanying Mandela Effect associated with multiple-universe theory. The Mandela Effect is a common I just see no point in having memory you have that you would swear by that does not match up more. I'm not sure. It certainly is with reality. For example, remem- obsolete in my opinion when I can bering the Monopoly board game just get on YouTube and look up man wearing a monocle. A good one what I feel like watching and always for me was remembering "The find something. Berenstein Bears" but it's spelled Berenstain. This theory involves a angle — and that government orgabelief that somewhere along the way nizations no longer flatly deny such the universes we reside in somehow things. There isn't much out there got swapped out.

around with space and time. But shortage of content available modern technology itself. through modern media, just You-Tube alone has hundreds of thoubeing is that the ease to document sands of channels and top 10 or 20 lists covering every topic you can think of, with a continuous inflow of it's been a while since I was able to

So when you're talking literally millions of daily uploads, damn near really believe I'm living in a complex everything out of the ordinary is computer simulation, because it documented. Many incidents end would render my existence pointless up having multiple submissions if I were just some random non- from witnesses so now we have UFO player character. However there is sightings and other phenomenon no way to know if that is really the with videos from different angles case. And again, there are plenty of due to multiple people recording them. With all this material it is not Now what interests me is the idea all difficult to put together a show watch on television and online.

> Now with Smart TVs being so a basic cable, if that even exists any-

So coming back to the paranormal that gets missed. So we're living in a There's even a belief that experi- very different time from just a handments involving particle accelera- ful of decades prior. And things have tors such as those done at CERN in to be viewed and approached differ-Switzerland to blame for screwing ently by global governments. And they have made attempts to be more whatever the case is, there's no open, more transparent as a result of

> The point I think I'm making here and share information has broad implications. Mostly I'm glad that watch on TV and have that be true.

WINTER PROGRAM INFORMATION DAY TIME WARMING SHELTER LOCATIONS:



nless otherwise specificed, all above warming shelters operate Monday through Friday. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Delonis Center at 734-662-2829. For updates, visit bit.ly/washtenaw-warming.





OVERNIGHT SHELTER INFORMATION

Winter shelter information: Winter daytime and overnight shelter accommodations are available throughout the winter shelter season from November 13, 2023 - March 31, 2024 for any individual seeking emergency shelter during the cold winter months.

- Daytime shelter Monday Thursday, 8am 6pm at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse (100 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
- Overnight shelter Nighttime accommodations are at the Delonis Center; 312 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor, and at offsite locations including Congregation partners throughout the County, and there is an overnight shelter in Ypsilanti. During day-time hours, those seeking overnight shelter should first contact HAWC to obtain a referral for shelter at 734-961-1999. If it is after 5pm or weekend, please come to the Delonis Center or call the Delonis Center at 734-662-2829 and we'll assist with ensuring you're served and provide transportation to an offsite location if needed.

How do I get into the shelter?

Any individuals seeking emergency shelter please contact Housing Access of Washtenaw County (HAWC) at 734-961-1999 to obtain a referral to the Delonis Center. If it is after 5pm or weekend, please come to the Delonis Center and we'll assist ensuring you're served. Families, please contact HAWC to be referred to appropriate shelter resources.

What is provided at the shelter?

Is are provided a safe place to sleep each night and can access : wide variety of services including meals, case management, medical care, and most importantly help finding permanent housing.



For updates and more information: bit.ly/washtenaw-warming

▶ MR. LOVER from last page

They looked at each other, then Keisha said, "Yeah we should get him back on Valentine's Day. The nerve of that man, thinking he can get away with dating all of us."

"He probably even has other women too," said Simone.

Kelly said, "Hey, I'll pretend that I'm going over to his place for a booty call, then we can get him. All three of us on Valentine's Day." They all laughed.

Day. She accepted her gift with a big Alonzo. smile. He never knew that she was aware of his playboy moves. She was eager to get off work and call the other ladies and make the plan to get back at him. Kelly made a date with him, pretending that they were going to have a wild date for Valentine's

Alonzo was knocking at Kelly's

door at 8 p.m. with the same gift he had given Simone and Keisha. Kelly answered the door, dressed in a black sexy outfit, with a whip and handcuffs in her hand. Alonzo was shocked, but he was so turned on. Kelly grabbed him by his collar, gently yanking him into the house. she put her hand over his mouth.

Kelly said to him, "You must be quiet. I'm the boss here." She directed him towards the chair she had planned for him. Alonzo smiled Keisha returned to work the next and complied, sitting in the chair. day — the day before Valentine's Kelly handcuffed and blindfolded

Keisha and Simone entered the room. Simone started pouring syrup all over him. Keisha poured honey all over him. Kelly cut her pillow open and put feathers all over him. Alonzo was shocked. All three women were in the same room with him. Alonzo's heart dropped and he got scared. All three women were shouting at him, "You think you toys and games you can play with! slick! Oh, you a playboy!"

book." The ladies laughed at him while he pleaded to be released.

"The next time you want to play games you need to go to Toys 'R' Us When Alonzo attempted to speak, warehouse! They have over 1,000

Wouldn't you rather be a Toys 'R' Us Keisha said to him, "We are going kid than a tarred and feathered one!" to put this picture of you on Face- The ladies laughed and snapped a picture and uploaded it to the Internet.

> Happy Valentine's Day, Mr. Lover Lover.



Thank you Groundcover readers. I appreciate all the love, support and your patience. Happy **New Year and Happy Valentine's Day!**

Currently, I am working a job in Alabama struggling to keep a home. I would appreciate if all my Truth or Lies Mystery Lane fans please subscribe to Groundcover News under Felicia Wilbert vendor No. 234.

Once again, thank you for your support and love. Stay blessed.

— Felicia Wilbert

Carmelized onion dip

ELIZABETH BAUMAN Groundcover contributor

Ingriedients:

3 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

2 onions, diced

1 Tbsp fresh thyme leaves, coarsely chopped

1 1/4 cups sour cream

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce Kosher salt and freshly ground black

Potato chips, for serving

Directions:

pepper

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and thyme and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions are very soft and brown (about 20 minutes). Set aside to cool to room temperature.

Meanwhile, stir together the sour cream, mayonnaise and



Worcestershire sauce and season with salt and pepper. Add the onion mixture and stir until well combined.

Cover and chill overnight. The dip can be made up to 3 days ahead and refrigerated in an airtight container. Serve with potato chips.





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OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/2024





St. France "If God were for I call I did not co

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me." + Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

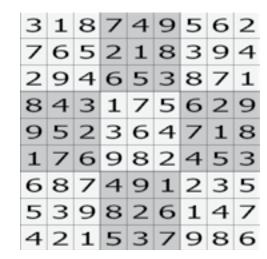
Come Worship With Us!

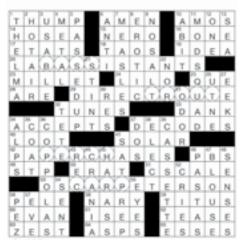
Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 pm (English) & 7 pm (Spanish) Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 5 pm

> 2250 East Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor www.StFrancisA2.com 734-821-2100

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Donation Drop-Off's

May-September: Saturday 9am-3pm October- April: Saturday 9am-1:30pm





Recognized by the City of Ann Arbor & Washtenaw County for the environmental impact of our Thrift Sale in 2022